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Friday, February 15, 1952

I went at ten o'clock this morning with Chuck Spofford to Mr. Ketcham's flat on Park Lane to see the funeral procession. From a glassed-in Regency balcony we had a superb view of this sad but glorious spectacle. Amongst the first people to pass on foot below us, between lanes of citizens and soldiers, were the bearer of the King's standard (in a cloth case), and such quaint individuals as the Gold Stick and a couple of Silver Sticks. There was band after band playing funeral airs, dashing horsemen with scarlet uniforms and burnished helmets, military detachments with arms reversed, representatives of foreign powers, like President Auriol, marching slowly along, as did the Duke of Windsor and his brother Gloucester, as well as the new consort Edinburgh and the young Duke of Kent. There were Marshals, ~~Generals and Admirals,~~ Eisenhower, Acheson and many other notables in the procession. But most conspicuous of all the catafalque, horse-drawn, surmounted by a crown, sceptre and orb.

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Then there were the carriages, huge black and gilt affairs, with wonderful red draperies, the same colors repeated in the coachmen's box coats and the uniforms of the postillions. The horses were nervous, though the pace was slow. In the four or five carriages were the new Queen and her sister, the Queen Mother and several attendant Kings.

After foul weather yesterday, the day had turned clear, so the walk from Westminster to Paddington Station (where the body was placed on a train for despatch to Windsor for burial) [redacted] was tolerable, even for the many [redacted] aged people [redacted] in the official cortège.

It was all done with unforgettable precision and pomp [redacted]

The procession passed beneath us for an hour, and at its conclusion we went to the Embassy, where I talked to McCloy and Byroade about Franco-German matters. Tommy telephoned me from Paris to say prospects for passing the European Army resolution in the French Parliament

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to-morrow were not satisfactory, that Faure might even resign, and some of the French leaders felt it might be well for me to return at once, and see if I could be helpful in Paris.

So, dressed cap-a-pied in black, like everyone in London to-day, I scurried to Nancy's for my passport, and caught the 3 p.m. BEA plane from Northolt, which put me down at Orly at 5.30 Paris time (4.30 London). Tommy and Norman Armour met me at the airport. I went to the office to discuss the recent political and financial developments here. The prospects for the parliamentary vote on the European Defense Force in the Parliament to-morrow afternoon are very chancy. If the Socialists abstain from voting, it may be that the Government will squeak through. A rejection of the Resolution would create chaos in NATO, and also might require drastic reorientation in the foreign policy of the U.S. In addition, it would be a terrible blow to the Foreign Aid Bill in Congress. I sent

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some discreet messages on this subject to-night to Socialist leaders, expressing what I believe would be the American reaction in the event of the failure of the Resolution. I had a talk with Labouisse and Timmons about what has taken place following our conversations in London on making 200 million dollars quickly available for Defense Department expenditures for France and Indochina.

I went over to see Alphand in the Foreign Office, to discuss with him what might be done in case the Resolution fails in Parliament.

Averell and Monnet called on me to-night about the 200 million dollar affair.

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